

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL REPORT PRESENTATION
ACADEMIC SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS 2022
AUGUST 22, 2022

BACKGROUND:

The Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Office provides summer programming for identified students in order to mitigate learning loss and build student readiness for regular academic year learning. Summer Learning Programs connected to academic content areas allow students additional time to master grade level skills and knowledge from the previous school year and build the social emotional skills necessary for full readiness to learn. High school level students have the additional opportunity to earn credit for their courses to remain on track for graduation.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of four main areas of academic summer programming that occurred during the summer of 2022: Summer Learning Program, Academic Tutoring, Stars of Summer, and English Language Learner Summer Camp. Identification of student participants, the content and structure of each program, and outcome data will be discussed.

DISCUSSION:

The 2022 Summer Learning Program expanded to provide opportunities for students at all levels to build their academic skills.

Elementary Summer Program

The elementary summer program provided reading, writing, and mathematics instruction to 824 students in Pre-Kindergarten through grade five. Students were provided transportation to one of three sites for a 3-week program running four days a week from July 11 – July 28. A tiered approach to instruction was implemented in order to support students as they worked towards grade-level standards. This tiered approach allowed small groups of students to build confidence as well as necessary background knowledge and skills to mitigate pandemic related learning loss.

Students in grades K-2 were invited to participate based on teacher and administrator recommendation. These recommendations included students participating in an approved intervention program but not making progress or students who had received a “Not Evident” on their 2nd Quarter Report Card in reading, writing, and/or mathematics. Students identified in grades 3 – 5 were those participating in an approved intervention program but is not making sufficient progress or those who received a “D” or “E” on their 2nd Quarter Report Card in reading, writing, and/or mathematics.

Middle School Summer Program

The middle school summer program provided language arts and mathematics instruction as well as social emotional learning to 167 students in grades 6 – 8. This program ran at three sites, four days a week from July 11 – August 4. Each day, students participated in three blocks of instruction: Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Emotional Learning. Texts taught in the Language Arts block were intentionally connected to the Social Emotional block and focused on stories of similarly aged students of various backgrounds working through challenges such as the loss of a parent, incarceration of a parent, illness, bullying, changing schools, and poverty. The culminating assignment allowed small groups of students to collaborate on a resource they could provide to other students who may be dealing with similar challenges. In addition to academic instruction, students had opportunities to hear from respected keynote speakers about life skills and attitudes. Students also had opportunities to engage in structured physical activities and artistic expression with their peers.

Students were identified to participate by teacher, counselor, and administrator recommendation. Priority was given to students who received a “C”, “D”, or “E” on their 2nd and/or 3rd Quarter Report Card in reading, writing, and/or mathematics and/or students who displayed potential and would benefit from learning new ways to solve problems, collaborate with peers in positive ways, and develop desired middle school learning habits. Students who met three of the ten social emotional indicators below were also prioritized:

Social Emotional Indicators

- Has difficulty showing motivation towards schools
- Has difficulty advocating for themselves for getting what they need
- Has difficulty interacting and communicating with peers
- Has difficulty interacting and communicating with staff
- Has difficulty organizing themselves for success
- Has difficulty expressing thoughts and feelings
- Has difficulty making decisions
- Has difficulty making friends
- Comes from an unstable, transient home situation
- Has limited exposure or access to experiences beyond their neighborhood

The content and structure of this program was created through the collaboration of middle school Principals, the Office of Reading, English, and Language Arts, the Office of Mathematics, and Student Services Departments. Their collaboration produced a unified, unique structure and content to increase student mastery of grade level content standards and address markers of social emotional learning needs.

High School Summer Program

The high school summer program provided opportunities for students in grades 9 – 12 to earn recovery credit(s) in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science courses in order to remain on track for graduation and have the requisite knowledge and background to engage in the next sequential course. In addition, students could earn original credit in Physical Education

and Geometry through this four-week program. 526 students engaged in this summer learning program opportunity from July 11 – August 4.

Academic Tutoring

Virtual tutoring was again offered to any interested Harford County Public School student. The intent of the tutoring program is to support students with a review of the pre-requisite skills and knowledge necessary as they enter their next grade level or sequential course for students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. Personalized tutoring schedules were determined based on each student's academic needs. Tutoring was provided to each student twice per week in a virtual one-on-one or small group setting. Academic Tutors are Harford County Public School (HCPS) staff members and use HCPS curriculum to support student learning.

Stars of Summer

Stars of Summer is a virtual learning program providing students the chance to experience camp-like workshops in all content areas. Each four-day workshop is designed to be engaging and interactive while building students' academic skill. Stars of Summer is led by HCPS teachers and is available for students who are entering grades 1-9 for the 2022-23 school year. The Program Catalog was available to families beginning in May so they could select their preferred workshops. Forty-five different workshops were offered beginning July 18 through August 4. The full catalog of option for students can be accessed on the HCPS website at:

<https://www.hcps.org/students/docs/StarsOfSummer2022.pdf>

English Learner (EL) Summer Camp

In partnership with LASOS, Inc (Linking All So Others Succeed) HCPS provides a safe and structured learning environment for any school aged EL student for one month during the summer. Teaching staff included HCPS teachers as well as tutors, and teen volunteers. The in-person camp ran Monday through Friday, 8:30am -3:30pm. If HCPS was closed, EL camp continued to meet on the campus of Calvary Baptist Church. Transportation and meals were provided each day for all students. EL camp was designed to support continued growth and exposure in English language proficiency through diversified and engaging lessons in Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Social Sciences. Additional opportunities for social/emotional lessons included self-care, physical fitness, fiscal responsibility, and leadership development were provided. External partnerships and community involvement enhanced the EL summer camp experience.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education accept this informational report on academic summer programming for 2022.